

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

FOR NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

April 2005



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

Unemployment rates and employment-by-industry estimates paint different pictures

From November through February, **Adams County's** unemployment rate rose faster than usual. The March rate fell faster than usual, but still remains 1.9 percent above its typical March level. The total nonfarm employment estimate rose more slowly this March than last, leaving it below the year-ago level for the first time in the last 12 months.

Instead of rising as it often does, **Forest County's** unemployment rate fell in March, and now sits 0.7 percent below its typical level. Though not as encouraging as rates from late spring and early summer of 2004, this is a brighter sign than the above-typical rates from December 2004 through February 2005. Since a sharp dip last September, the leisure & hospitality employment estimate has remained well below year-ago levels.

Langlade County's unemployment rate fell instead of rising as it usually does in March. The rate now sits as far below typical levels as it has been in the last 12 months. The manufacturing employment estimate remains above its year-ago level, but the March decline left it closer to the year-ago level than it has been since last May.

Instead of rising as it typically does in March, **Lincoln County's** unemployment rate fell, leaving it further below the typical level than it has been at any point in the last 12 months. The construction employment estimate and the manufacturing employment estimate have both been well below year-ago levels since last summer and remain in

the realm of negative over-the-year change.

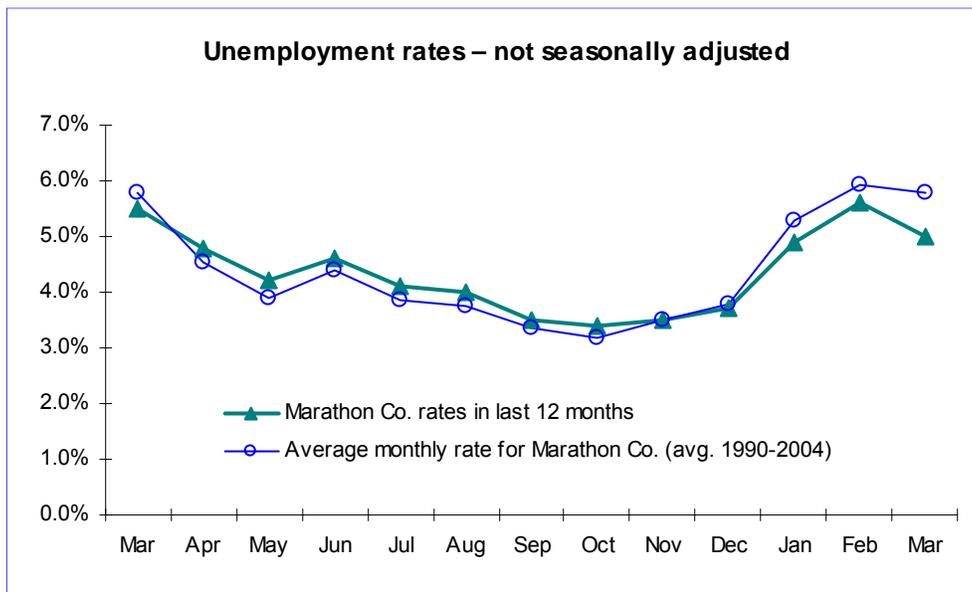
Falling faster than it usually does in March, **Marathon County's** unemployment rate is further below its typical level than it has been in the last 12 months. Comparing last March to this March, manufacturing employment estimates have seen more numerical growth than any other sector's estimates; only construction employment estimates saw faster over-the-year proportional growth. The education & health ser-

vice employment estimate grew by 530 jobs or 9.4 percent. It grew by just 110 jobs or 1.8 percent between March 2004 and March 2005. Dropping faster than it usually does in March, **Portage County's** unemployment rate is as close to its typical level as it has been in the last 12 months. In March 2004 employment estimates for information, professional, business & other services were 440 jobs or 10.3 percent above their year-ago levels. In March 2005 that sector's employment estimates were 120 jobs or 2.6 percent above their year-ago levels. From March 2003 to March 2004 the retail & wholesale trade employment estimate grew by 530 jobs or 9.4 percent. It grew by just 110 jobs or 1.8 percent between March 2004 and March 2005.

In **Vilas County** the unemployment rate fell instead of rising as it usually does in March, leaving the rate below its typical level for the first time in at least twelve months. Last March, the construction em-

ployment estimate was 50 jobs or 6.4 percent above its year-ago level; this March it is barely 20 jobs or 1.9 percent above its year-ago level. Last July, the leisure & hospitality employment estimate was 570 jobs or 19 percent above its year-ago level; this March it was 120 jobs or 8.9 percent below last March's level.

Wood County's unemployment rate fell sharply in March, leaving it as close to its typical level as it has been in the last six months. This autumn and winter saw more declines in information, professional, business & other services than last winter, and the extent seasonal rebound remains to be seen.



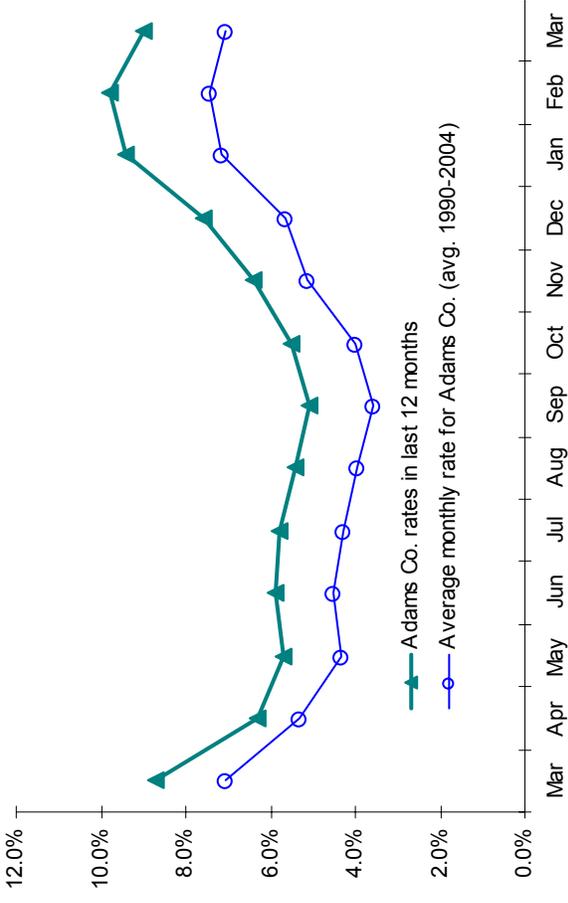
vices employment estimate is well above its year-ago levels, but has not increased significantly since October.

Oneida County's unemployment rate fell instead of rising as it usually does in March. Last April the retail & wholesale trade employment estimate was roughly 300 jobs or 7.4 percent above its April 2003 level. This March, the retail & wholesale trade employment estimate is about 130 jobs or 3.2 percent above the March 2004 level. Last March, the total nonfarm employment estimate was 630 jobs or 3.6 percent above the previous March's level. The total nonfarm employment estimate for this March is just below the estimate for last March.

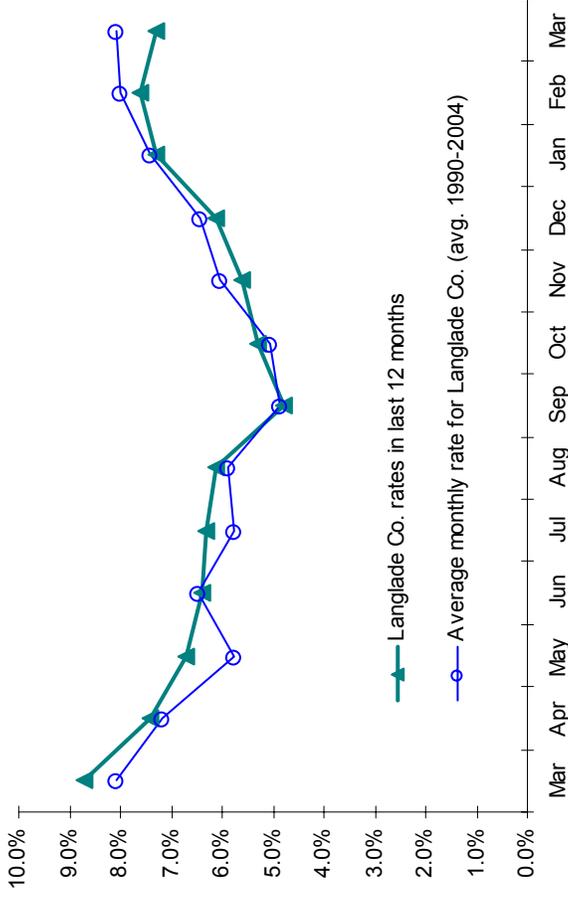
Employment by industry estimates - not seasonally adjusted															
	Wisconsin			Adams County			Forest County			Langlade County			Lincoln County		
	Mar 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2005	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries*	2,776,100	15,800	31,800	3,900	50	-10	3,400	40	-40	7,700	0	30	11,400	-50	-250
Const., min'g & nat. resources	118,400	2,000	4,200	190	10	10	80	0	10	320	10	-20	310	10	-50
Manufacturing	500,900	2,500	6,400	420	0	20	360	0	0	1,570	-30	70	3,400	-40	-110
Trade (w/wholesale & retail)	422,600	500	2,100	470	10	-20	290	-10	0	1,500	0	-10	1,530	0	-30
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	106,000	500	1,800	120	0	0	160	0	0	380	0	0	370	10	-10
Financial activities	157,300	400	600	90	0	0	110	0	0	340	0	30	860	10	50
Education & health services	383,900	600	11,900	540	0	20	380	10	10	970	0	10	1,070	0	-10
Leisure & hospitality	235,900	3,200	3,300	440	20	-70	150	0	-40	710	10	-10	980	0	0
Info, prof, bus. & other svcs	427,900	4,700	300	440	10	20	210	10	10	720	-10	-20	950	10	-10
Government	423,200	1,400	1,200	1,230	0	0	1,640	30	-10	1,170	20	-30	1,930	-50	-70
Civilian Labor Force**	3,027,600	-18,560	-32,610	9,100	-60	-120	5,000	20	-160	10,400	-90	-380	15,500	-170	-620
Employed	2,862,300	-7,200	-7,180	8,300	20	-130	4,500	20	-130	9,600	-50	-200	14,400	-100	-390
Unemployed	165,300	-11,360	-25,440	820	-80	10	430	-10	-30	760	-40	-180	1,060	-60	-230
Unemployment rate	5.5%	-0.3%	-0.7%	9.0%	-0.8%	0.3%	8.6%	-0.2%	-0.3%	7.3%	-0.3%	-1.4%	6.9%	-0.3%	-1.1%
	Marathon County			Oneida County			Portage County			Vilas County			Wood County		
	Mar 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2005	1-month change	1-year change	Mar 2005	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries*	70,300	1,100	1,500	17,400	-30	-120	33,900	240	320	7,500	20	-250	42,000	260	-60
Const., min'g & nat. resources	2,700	0	200	1,060	40	40	1,030	40	50	730	20	10	1,390	40	10
Manufacturing	18,200	700	800	1,270	-10	-100	4,600	20	-200	290	10	-20	6,600	-10	-330
Trade (w/wholesale & retail)	13,200	100	200	4,100	-70	130	5,800	-120	110	1,330	10	30	6,000	50	-180
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	2,800	100	100	420	0	-10	1,660	0	-60	140	0	10	3,300	30	80
Financial activities	5,000	0	100	520	0	0	4,000	40	-30	350	0	30	1,220	10	70
Education & health services	7,600	0	300	3,600	-10	-110	3,600	100	280	700	0	20	10,400	20	200
Leisure & hospitality	4,700	100	-200	1,940	10	30	2,800	30	-30	1,370	-20	-120	2,800	30	10
Info, prof, bus. & other svcs	7,900	100	0	2,100	30	-30	4,400	90	120	580	0	10	5,000	50	160
Government	8,200	0	0	2,500	-20	-70	6,100	50	90	2,000	10	-210	5,300	30	-90
Civilian Labor Force**	73,300	10	-200	19,500	-260	-580	40,100	-170	-470	10,700	-110	-500	40,500	-180	-750
Employed	69,600	430	130	18,000	-150	-400	37,900	10	-230	9,800	-60	-370	37,600	20	-580
Unemployed	3,700	-430	-330	1,550	-110	-190	2,200	-180	-240	920	-50	-130	2,900	-200	-160
Unemployment rate	5.0%	-0.6%	-0.5%	8.0%	-0.4%	-0.6%	5.6%	-0.4%	-0.5%	8.6%	-0.4%	-0.8%	7.1%	-0.5%	-0.3%

Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Numbers ≥ 2,000 are rounded to nearest 100; numbers < 2,000 rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers; results rounded.
 *Includes jobs with employers in area. ** Includes labor force participants residing in area.
 For more information call (608) 242-4885, email dan.barrollnet@dwd.state.wi.us, or see <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/oes/>.

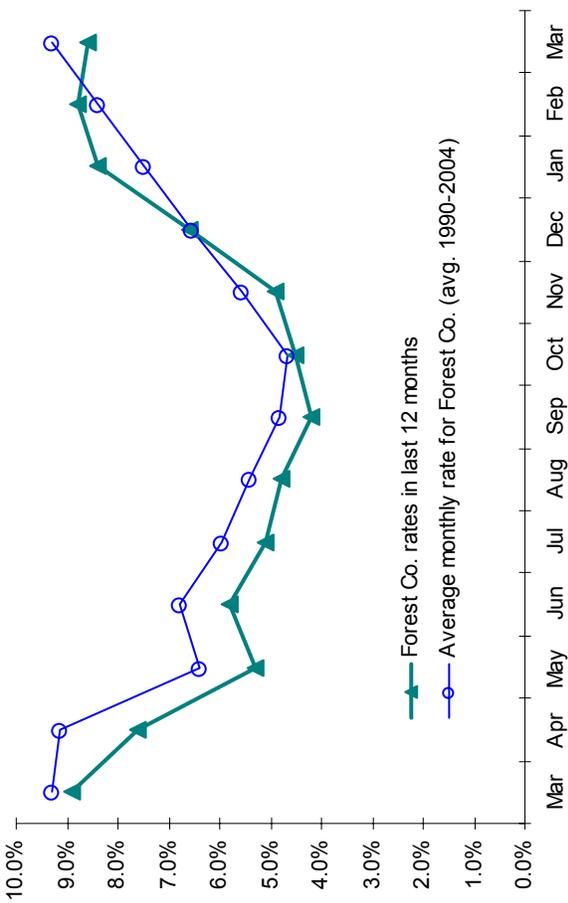
Unemployment rates – not seasonally adjusted



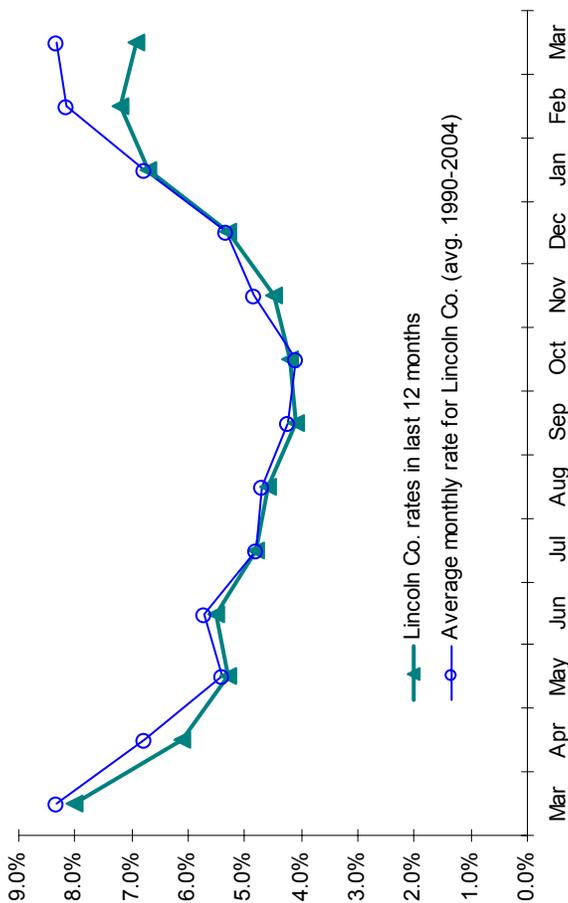
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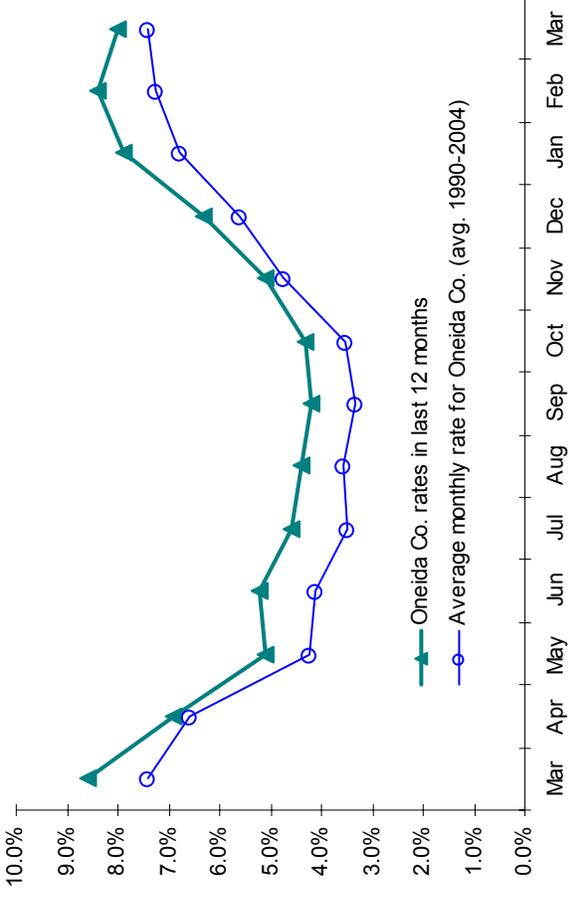
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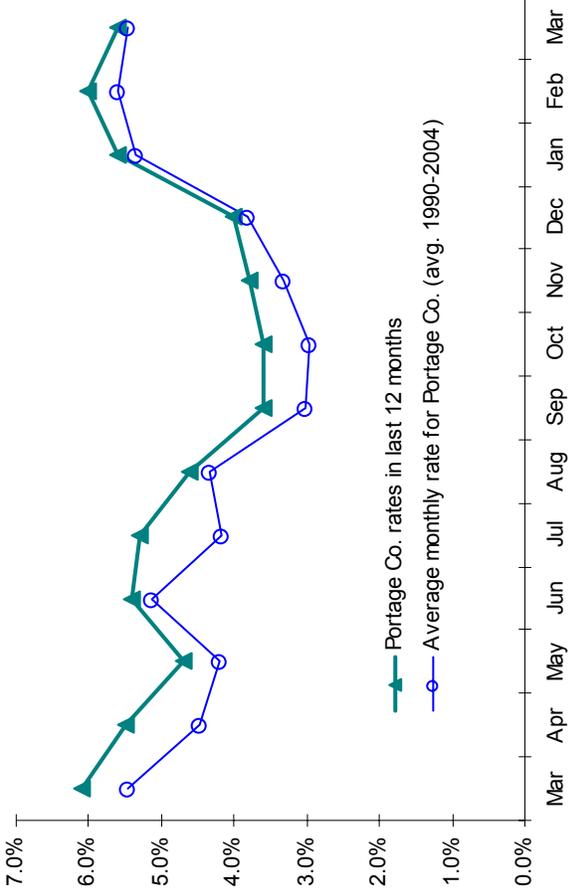
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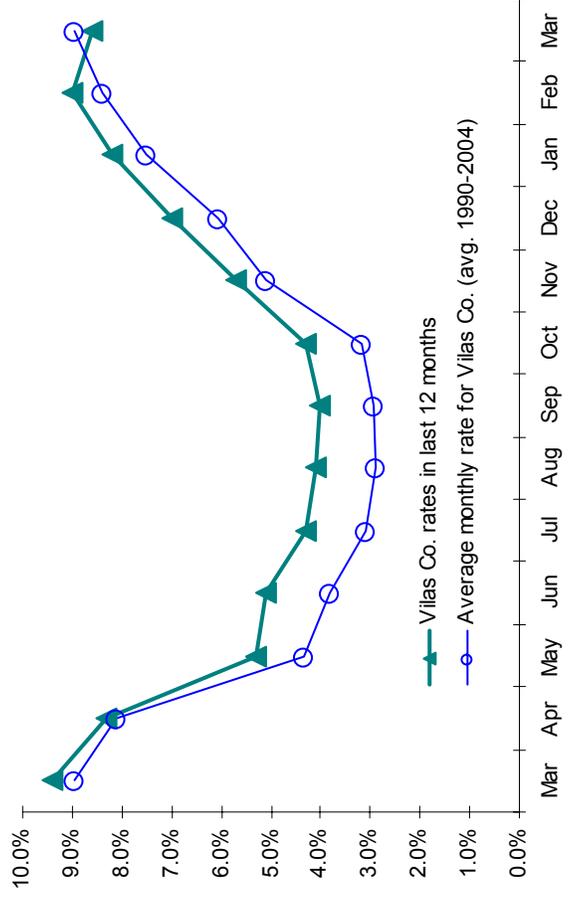
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